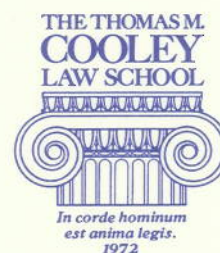


AMY TIMMER  
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALISM  
PROFESSOR OF LAW



November 30, 2010

Corbin Davis  
Clerk of the Court  
Michigan Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 30052  
Lansing, MI 48909

**Re: ADM File No. 2010-18  
Proposed Amendments to MRPC 6.1**

Dear Clerk Davis:

I am writing as Associate Dean of Students and Professionalism at Thomas M. Cooley Law School to ask the Court to adopt Alternative B of proposed amendments to MRPC 6.1.

As the largest law school in the country, we take very seriously our responsibility to instill a public service commitment in our students and graduates. In 2009, our students and faculty provided over 300,000 hours of free legal help to those who could not otherwise afford it or who may not otherwise fund it. More important, the number of hours of free legal assistance our students offered in the area of public interest—using the Equal Justice Works definition to include all clinic placements, judicial placements, state and federal agency placements, and positions taken in prosecutors, public defenders, Legal Aid, and other public interest law offices—totaled, in 2009, just over 200,000 hours, or over \$30 million worth, of free legal public interest assistance.

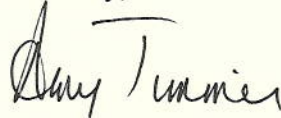
Our focus on ethics education includes the legal profession's emphasis on providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need. We require that all students earn a minimum of three credit hours in one of our seven public service clinics or in an approved externship. While that requirement can be met in private law offices and government agencies, our efforts are consistent with Alternative B's recognition that lawyers are uniquely suited to provide legal help so that the "substantial majority" of pro bono work should be legal help for the poor. We believe that Alternative B would help sustain this priority while recognizing that lawyers also give a great deal of other non-legal community service.

In addition, Alternative B will help us continue to inspire and educate our students and graduates about pro bono. While we require the three credit hours in public service clinics or externships, a substantial portion of the pro bono work performed by our students and faculty was done voluntarily and was not required of them. Over 16,000 hours were provided not only

for no pay but also for no academic credit. As our students enter into legal practice, Alternative B clarifies in a very helpful way what they can be certain qualifies as pro bono while simultaneously offering flexibility and inspiration to meet the voluntary standard. Based on the ABA Model Rule 6.1 and the State Bar of Michigan's Voluntary Pro Bono Standard, Alternative B's specifics give lawyers and students helpful guidance in focusing their own pro bono service and financial donations to support legal assistance for those facing economic barriers.

As a law school leading the nation in offering and inspiring pro bono assistance, we hope our students will continue this commitment after graduation and into practice as part of the legal profession's long tradition of pro bono legal help for those in need. Alternative B will aid us in that goal, and we urge the Court to adopt it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Timmer".

Amy Timmer

Associate Dean of Students and Professionalism  
Thomas M. Cooley Law School

AT/cj